4. **पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय**

(क) समेकित वनरोपण तथा पारिस्थितिकी विकास परियोजना स्कीम

(ख) क्षेत्रोन्मुखी जलाऊ लकड़ी तथा चारा परियोजना स्कीम

(ग) वनरोपण और वृक्षारोपण के लिए सहायता अनुदान योजना

(घ) पारिस्थतिकी कृतिक बल योजना

Development of Gautam Buddha Network to Promote Tourism

4717. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to formulate a comprehensive plan of action for development of Gautam Buddha Network (places of historical importance) in the country to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the fund provided and utilised during the Eighth plan period alongwith achievements;

(c) the details of international tourists visiting these places each year for the past three years, year-wise and foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the details of foreign aid received utilised so far for development of tourists spots Buddha Network and assistance in the pipeline alongwith details of action plan for the current year?

THE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) a Task Force appointed by the Government to identify the centres associated with the life of Buddha submitted its report in October 1986. The report identified Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahawa, Sravasti and Sankasia in U.P. and Patna, Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar for development. Based on the report, the development of these centres was taken up with the loan assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan. The amount spent on this project during the 8th Plan was Rs. 125 crores;

The second Task Force set up in June 1987 identified the Buddhist Centres in other states for development by the respective States. Based on the project proposal received from the Maharashtra Govt. OECF loan assistance was provided for the Conservation and Development of Ajanta-Ellora. The amount spent on this project during the 8th Plan was Rs. 41.48 crores.

(c) The statistics of international tourists visiting these individual places and the foreign exchange earning from them are not available.

(d) The OECF loan assistance is not available in advance. The implementing agencies i.e. the State Governments have to spend the money first and them claim reimbursement from OECF. For the development of infrastructural facilities along identified Budhhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar Rs. 155 crores has been reimbursed by OECF so far and for Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and tourism development project OECF reimbursed Rs. 54.14 crores so far.

Export of Handicrafts

4718. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for export of handicrafts sector during 1997-98 and achievements made;

(b) whether it is a fact that the share of Southern and Eastern regions in the total experts of handicrafts from the country was only eight per cent.

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps proposed to be taken for correcting regional imbalance in export of Indian handicrafts; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for giving a boost to some important lesser known crafts in the interna-

tional market like zari work, shawls, bamboo crafts, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The target set for export of handicrafts, sector during 1997-98 and achievements made has been to the tune of Rs. 6500 crores and Rs. 6457.69 crores (Provisional) respectively.

(b) and (c) The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has estimated that the exports of handicrafts from Southern and Eastern regions account for about 8 per cent of the total exports of handicrafts.

To promote exports from all Regions of the country, the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Government of India, has set up six Regional Offices at New Delhi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and Guwahati and to provide design inputs to the artisans and exporters of handicrafts, five Regional Design and Technical Development Centres are functioning at Calcutta, Guwahati, Bangalore, Bhopal and New Delhi. Besides, 47 Handicrafts and Marketing Service Extension Centres are functioning in various parts of the country to render marketing related assistance.

(d) For promotion of various crafts, including lesser known crafts such as zari work, shawls, bomboo crafts etc., in the international market steps taken from time to time include: sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; participation in international fairs/festivals; overseas publicity; organising the buyer-sellers meets; conduct of workshops and seminars and organising the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair annually.

Circumvening Quota System by Exporters

4719. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-: SHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many garment exporters are circumvening the qota system by exporting goods to a third country and then role belling them for export to other countries;

(b) the number of such cases which have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) what action has been taken against such firms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No complaints have been received regarding any garment exporters circumvening the quota system by exporting goods to a third country and then selling them for export to other countries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-Mulberry Silk

4720. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise list of non-mulberry silk being identified in the country, their present day utility, export demand and future potentialities;

(b) whether some study is being proposed to be carried out to identify more of such unexplored species in the North-Eastern Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the future plans to explore and develop this sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The three commercially known varieties of non-mulberry silks produced by different states is given below:—

1. Tasar

(i) Tropical Tasar:	Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan.
(ii) Oak Tasar:	Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal